5

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound comprising the formula:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} R_7 \\ I \\ C \end{pmatrix}_h = \begin{bmatrix} M_1 \end{bmatrix}_e = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ I \\ C \end{pmatrix}_b \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ C \\ R_2 \end{bmatrix}_c \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \end{bmatrix}_d = \begin{pmatrix} R_3 \\ C \\ R_4 \end{bmatrix}_e \begin{bmatrix} M_3 \end{bmatrix}_c \begin{bmatrix} R_5 \\ I \\ C \\ R_6 \end{bmatrix}_h \begin{pmatrix} Y_2 \\ I \\ R_6 \end{bmatrix}_h$$
 (I)

wherein:

G is a linear or branched polymer residue;

Y₁ and Y₂ are independently O, S, or NR₉;

M₁-M₃ are independently O, S, or NR₁₀:

M4 is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

 R_{1-10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

a, b, c, d, [e, f, g,] h, i and n are each independently zero or a positive integer; and e, f and g are each independently a positive integer.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G includes a capping group A, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, CO₂H, C_{1.6} alkyl moieties, and

$$\begin{array}{c} Y_2 \\ \parallel \\ -C - [M_4] - \begin{bmatrix} R_5 \\ -C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_3 \end{bmatrix}_f \begin{bmatrix} R_3 \\ -C \end{bmatrix}_g \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \end{bmatrix}_d \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ -C \end{bmatrix}_b \begin{bmatrix} M_1 \end{bmatrix}_{\overline{a}} \begin{pmatrix} C \\ -C \end{bmatrix}_h \end{array} \tag{If}$$

3. (Original) A compound of claim 2, of the formula:

$$B = C - [M_4]_{\Gamma} - \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ C \\ R_2 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} M_2 \\ M_2 \end{bmatrix}_{\sigma} \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ C \\ R_3 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} M_1 \\ C \\ R_2 \end{bmatrix}_{C} \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ C \\ R_3 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_7 \\ C \\ R_8 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} R_7 \\ C \\ R_9 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} M_1 \\ C \\ R_2 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ C \\ R_3 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_2 \\ C \\ R_4 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_3 \\ C \\ R_4 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_5 \\ C \\ R_6 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} M_4 \\ C \\ R_9 \end{bmatrix}_{\Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} R_5 \\ R_9 \end{bmatrix}$$

- 4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein a, b, c, d, [e, f, g,] h, i and n are independently zero, one or two.
 - 5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y_1 and Y_2 are both O.
 - 6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein M_2 is NH and d is one.
 - 7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_7 and R_8 are both H.
 - 8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein n is 1.
 - 9. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein a is 0.

7

- 10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein a is 1.
- 11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein c is 0.
- 12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein g is 2, M_3 is 0, e is 2, f is 1 and R_3 and R_4 are H.
- 13. (Original) The compound of claim 12, wherein b, d, h and n are 1, R_5 and R_6 are H and M_2 is NH.
- 14. (Original) The compound of claim 12, wherein b, d and n are 1, M_2 is NH and R_3 and R_4 are H.
- 15. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of an amine containing moiety.
- 16. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein said amine-containing moiety is

wherein

 R_{12-13} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, halo, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

R₁₄₋₁₈ are independently selected from alkoxy, e.g. OR₁₉ or, in the alternative, H, OH, N₃, NHR₂₀, NO₂ or CN, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, where R₁₉₋₂₀ are independently selected from

the same group which defines R₁₂₋₁₃.

- 17. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G is O-(CH₂CH₂O)_x or O-(CH(CH₃)CH₂O)_x, wherein x is the degree of polymerization.
- 18. (Original) The compound of claim 17, wherein G is O- $(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ and x is a positive integer selected so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000.
- 19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000.
- 20. (Original) The compound of claim 21, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000.
 - 21. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ C-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-C-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-CH₂-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-C-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-C-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-C-NH-AraC

 G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-C-NH-AraC

22.

9

Arac-NH-G-CH2-CH2-NH-G-CH2-G-CH2-G-NH-(CH2-CH2-O)2-G-NH-Arac Arac-NH-G-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH2-G-CH2-G-NH-(CH2-CH2-O)-CH2-G-NH-Arac Arac-NH-0- HN- CH2- CH2- CH2- CH2- CH2- CH2- G- }--{-CH2-C-NH-(CH2-CH2-O)2-CH2-CH2-NH-C-NH-Arac Arac NH C-CH2 CH2 CH2 NH C-CH2 G-CH2 G-CH2 G-NH (CH2 CH2 - O)2 CH2 G-NH Arac

A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

- 23. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

 G-CH₂-C-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂C-B
 O
 - G-CH2-CH2-CH2-O)2 CH2-G-B
 - G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-CH₂NH-G-B
 - G-CH₂-C-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ G-B S

 - G-CH₂-G-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂NH-G-B
- 24. (Original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:
- B-G-(O-CH2-CH2-NH-CH2-G-CH2-G-NH-(CH2-CH2-O)2-G-B
- B-C-CH2 (O-CH2 CH2 NH-C-CH2 G-CH2 G-NH-(CH2 CH2 O) CH2 G-B
- B-C-HN-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH2-CH2-G-
 - -}-CH2--C-NH-(CH2--CH2--O)-CH2--CH2-NH--C-B
- B-C-CH2 CH2 CH2 NH-C-CH2-G-CH2-C-NH-(CH2-CH2-O); CH2-G-B and
- B--C--HN-CH2-CH2-(O--CH2--CH2)2NH-C-CH2G-}-
 - -{-CH2-G-NH-(CH2-CH2-O),2CH2-CH2-NH-G-B

- 25. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric conjugate, comprising:
 - a) reacting a biologically active moiety having an unprotected amine or
 - b) hydroxyl group with a compound of the formula

$$B_{2}[M_{2}]_{d} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{3} \\ C \\ R_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{e} \begin{bmatrix} M_{3} \\ C \\ R_{6} \end{bmatrix}_{h} \begin{bmatrix} Y_{2} \\ M_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{c} = B_{1}$$
(III)

wherein

B₁ is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group;

B₂ is a cleavable protecting group;

Y₂ is O, S, or NR₉;

M2-M3 are independently O, S, or NR10,

M₄ is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

 R_{3-6} , R_9 and R_{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

d, [e, f, g,] h, and i are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

e, f and g are each independently a positive integer to form a protected intermediate of the formula:

$$B_{2}[M_{2}]_{d} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{3} \\ C \\ R_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{e} \begin{bmatrix} M_{3} \end{bmatrix}_{e} \begin{bmatrix} R_{6} \\ C \\ R_{6} \end{bmatrix}_{e} \begin{bmatrix} M_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{e} C B$$

$$(N)$$

wherein

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

b) deprotecting the resultant intermediate by removing B2; and

c) reacting the deprotected intermediate with a compound of the formula

$$G = (C)_{h} - [M_{1}]_{a} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{1} \\ Y_{2} \\ C \end{bmatrix}_{b} \begin{bmatrix} R_{1} \\ C \\ R_{2} \end{bmatrix}_{c}$$
(V)

wherein

B₃ is a leaving group;

G is a polymer residue;

 Y_1 is O, S, or NR_9 ;

 M_1 is O, S, or NR_{10} ;

 R_1 , R_2 , R_7 , R_9 and R_{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls; and

a, b and c are each independently zero or a positive integer, whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a polymeric conjugate, comprising:

[a)] reacting a polymer-spacer intermediate of the formula

$$G = (C)_{1} - [M_{1}]_{a} - (C)_{b} - [M_{2}]_{c} - [M_{2}]_{c} - [M_{3}]_{c} - [M_{4}]_{c} - [M_{4}]_{c} - (C)_{b} - [M_{4}]_{c} - (C)_{c} - (C)_{c}$$

wherein

B₁ is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group; G is a polymer residue;

Y₁ and Y₂ are independently O, S, or NR₉;

M₁-M₃ are independently O, S, or NR₁₀:

M₄ is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

 R_{1-10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

a, b, c, d, [e, f, g,] h, i and n are each independently zero or a positive integer; and e, f and g are each independently a positive integer;

and thereafter reacting intermediate with a biologically active moiety having an unprotected amine or hydroxyl group to form the polymeric conjugate.

- 27. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising: administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.
- 28. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising: administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 3, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.
 - 29. (Original) A compound of the formula:

$$B_{2}[M_{2}]_{\sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{3} \\ C \\ R_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{\Theta} \begin{bmatrix} M_{3} \end{bmatrix}_{\Phi} \begin{bmatrix} R_{5} \\ C \\ R_{6} \end{bmatrix}_{\Phi} \begin{bmatrix} M_{4} \end{bmatrix}_{\Phi} = C - B$$
 (N

wherein

B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety or a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

B₂ is a cleavable protecting group;

 Y_2 is O, S, or NR_9 ;

M₂-M₄ are independently O, S, or NR₁₀,

M₄ is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_2)$;

R_{3-6, 9 and 10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyls,

 C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

d, e, f, g, h, and i are each independently zero or a positive integer.

- 30. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

 G-CH₂-Q-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂-CH₂-CH₂-O G-B

 and
 S
 - G-CH₂-O-NH-(CH₂-CH₂-O)₂ CH₂-CH₂O-G-B .
- 31. (Original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

and

32. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein e, f and g are each independently one or two.